

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00025 071225Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

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R 070850Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 652

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, BU (KHRISTOV, LYOBOMIR)

SUBJ: CHILD OF FORMER BULGARIAN REFUGEE

REF: A) STATE 261401; B) STATE 277039; C) SOFIA 2253;

D) SOFIA 2811

1. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD REVIEW OF DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES FORECAST BY MLADENOV AS PER REF D, THE KHRISTOV CASE MAY BE BROUGHT UP AS INVOLVING US AUTHORITIES "PREVENTING" DEPARTURE OF A BULGARIAN CITIZEN. WE ARE WELL-ARMED AGAINST THIS PLOY BY ARGUMENTS ADDUCED AS PER REF C, VIZ. THAT US INTERPOSES NO OBSTACLES TO VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE BUT IS UNWILLING, AND INDEED UNABLE, TO FORCE SOMEONE TO RETURN TO BULGARIA WHO IS UNWILLING TO DO SO; AND THAT BULGARIANS ARE FREE TO ASCERTAIN THE DESIRES OF THE KHRISTOV CHILD.

2. HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE STILL BETTER ARMED IF WE COULD USE SOME OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE FYI PARAGRAPH AT END OF REF B, TO THE EFFECT THAT YOUNG LYOBOMIR HAS RECEIVED NO EVIDENCE THAT HIS FATHER HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM JAIL AS ALLEGED BY ZAKHARIEVA, OR INDEED THAT HIS FATHER AND MOTHER ARE STILL MARRIED. BY AT LEAST HINTING THAT WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT BULGARIANS HAVE ALLEGED IS NOT TRUE, WE COULD BETTER SQUELCH ANY POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO USE THE KHRISTOV CASE FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES.

HERZ

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Message Attributes

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